

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 17, 2003. A Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131 by Rajeev Joshi is attached.

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-5 were canceled and 6-9 were pending. In this Amendment, claims 7 and 9 are amended, and claims 10-12 are added. Claims 6-12 are pending and subject to examination. Support for claims 10-12 can be found at FIG. 1K of the present application and the corresponding text. No new matter is added.

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 7 and 9 are objected to. In response, claims 7 and 9 are amended in the manner proposed by the Examiner.

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 6-9 are rejected as being obvious over Barr et al. (2002/0000665) and Wang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,362,087). At page 4 of the Office Action, claims 6-9 are rejected as obvious over Wang et al. and Agarwala (U.S. Patent No. 5,376,584).

The obviousness rejections are traversed. Each obviousness rejection is based on Wang et al., which has a U.S. filing date of May 5, 2000. To expedite the prosecution, Applicant is submitting herewith a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131 showing that embodiments of the invention were conceived of prior to the U.S. filing date of Wang et al. Accordingly, Wang et al. is no longer prior art to the present application and withdrawal of the obviousness rejections based on the same is requested.

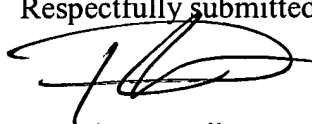
Appl. No. 09/731,226
Amdt. dated October 10, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 17, 2003

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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